in Indian Ordnance Factories, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) etc. Besides this, Transfer of Technology and licenee manufacture or imported equipment is also taken up in Ordnance Factories, Defence PSUs etc.

Delay in induction of Sukhoi Jets in IAF

106. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in expeditious induction of the latest Sukhoi Fighter aircrafts in the Indian Air Force;

(b) the steps taken by Government to reduce the induction time; and

(c) by when the requisite number of Sukhoi MKI aircrafts will be inducted in the Indian Air Force ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Coordination problems during the development phase of the aircraft, due to the multinational nature of the project, caused some delay in the induction of the Sukhoi-30 aircraft in the Indian Air Force.

(b) The project is regularly reviewed in high level joint meetings and technical problems faced are sorted out.

(c) One batch of aircraft has been received and induction of the remaining aircraft ex-import is likely to be completed by December, 2003.

Indo-Russia joint defence production

107. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report published in the 'Asian Age' dated 4th May, 2002 under the caption, "India moots joint defence production with Russia";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and .

(c) the specific advantages which would accrue to India in adopting joint programme of development and production of defence equipment with Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) to (c) Starting from the early 1960s, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and erstwhile Soviet Union have entered into licence production programme

for the manufacture of MiG series of aircraft, its engines and aggregates for the Indian Air Force.

To meet the enhanced requirement of IAF, an Inter-Governmental Agreement between Government of India and Russia was signed on 4th October, 2000 for licence manufacture of SU-30 MKI aircraft at HAL.

In addition, the Government of India have accorded approval to HAL for holding discussions with international partners of Russia for co-design, co-development and co-production of Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA-Cargo- and Passenger versions). A Heads of Agreement (HOA) has been signed by HAL with Russian partners, Ilyushin Aviation Complex (ILAC), Irkutsk, Aviation Industrial Association (IAIA) and Rosoboronexport on 6th June, 2001 during Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission meeting held in Moscow. A joint detailed Project report is under preparation. The project is proposed to be launched based on approval of the respective Governments of India and the Russian Federation.

Such joint programmes with Russia are likely to result in the creation of capabilities within the country of producing world-class aircraft, engines and other airborne equipment.

Purchase of sniffer dogs

108 SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of officials had rushed to Hyderabad to purchase a large number of sniffer dogs;

(b) if so, what is the background of raising such an unprecedented demand of special dogs instantly; and

(c) how long did it take to clear the proposal and how much fund would be required ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) A team of officials of Delhi Police visited Hyderabad in the month of May, 2002 for selection of sniffer dogs offered by one of the bidders found to be technically qualified.

(b) The Government had accorded its approval for purchase of 33 sniffer dogs while sanctioning creation of 3 Bomb Disposal Squads, 9 Bomb